



(U//FOUO) SID Around the World: SIGINT from Paradise (Okinawa)

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(U//FOUO) Palm trees waving in the warm winds. Outlying islands breaking the horizon of the East China Sea. Red hibiscus and purple bougainvillea in glorious bloom. Slender white cranes finding breakfast wiggling in the newly mown grass of the golf course. U.S. Air Force F-15 STRIKE EAGLE fighter aircraft roaring off the runway, blazing trails far away in the Carolina blue skies, followed shortly by the black-tipped nose of the RC-135 RIVET JOINT heading north to the Sea of Japan. What's SIGINT doing in a place like this?!? It's making a difference, every day. That's what! Konnichi-wa and greetings from the tropics, the southernmost prefecture of Japan -- Okinawa -- and an outpost of the Extended Enterprise.

(C//SI) The customer set for SIGINT here on Okinawa numbers in the tens of thousands and represents every branch of the U.S. armed forces as well as the State Department and other elements of the Intelligence Community. At over 26,000, the U.S. military personnel on Okinawa represent the largest number of American combat forces regularly stationed anywhere outside the United States. All of those forces require specific intelligence support from national systems to complement their own tactical intelligence capabilities. Now, start counting family members, U.S. government civilians of all skills, school teachers, and others supporting those combat forces and the total goes up to over 51,000 personnel!

(C//SI) That number of foreigners is bound to have an effect, sometimes adverse, on the local and national economy, traffic control and law enforcement. Those effects are frequently magnified and end up as issues for discussion among policy makers in Tokyo and Washington, D.C. who require even more specialized SIGINT support. And did you know that the front end for the majority of signals collected for exploitation at the Kunia RSOC in Hawaii is located here on Okinawa? Formerly known as NSGA Hanza, the site, just a stone's throw away from beautiful Torii Station beach, is now known as the Defense Communications Detachment Okinawa and is run by a handful of government contractors and a couple of Agency civilians.

(U//FOUO) So, that's what SIGINT is doing on this island paradise. We are making a difference in the security of U.S. interests 8000 miles away from the NSAW "flagpole." Consider taking a field tour in Okinawa or making it a stop on your TDY itinerary to see how important SIGINT is to the particular customer set here amidst the palm trees! Check out our [homepage](#) for more information and sights of Okinawa.



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